

Minutes of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee of February 19, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Town Clerk, the Sustainable Energy Committee (Committee) met at 7:00 p.m. in the first Floor Meeting room at 141 Keyes Road.

Present:

Brian Crounse

Sean Detweiler

Pamela Hathaway

Sally Hughes

Art Fulman

Tyke Crowley

Mr. Crounse convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

He explained that the purpose of the speaker series is to share knowledge and to raise awareness of options for energy efficiency and renewable energy. He then introduced John Odell of the Concord's Municipal Light Plant (CMLP).

Guest speaker: John Odell, Energy Services and Communicator, CMLP

Mr. Odell thanked the committee for inviting him and introduced his presentation on electricity pricing and forward capacity market. He began the first presentation with an overview on energy pricing in the Northeast and costs associated with specific energy charges. On the issue of "net-metering", he briefly discussed Concord's proposed policy on paying "whole sale" rate for energy generated (i.e. from renewable sources) instead of retail rate. He finished his presentation with answering a few questions and stated that the best way to influence change from the Light Plant is through Town meeting or some other public declaration of desired policy.

Guest speaker: Mike Jacobs, UPC Wind

Mr. Crounse thanked Mr. Odell and introduced Mike Jacobs, UPC Wind.

Mr. Odell thanked the committee for inviting him and introduced his presentation on investing on wind energy. He briefly described his work constructing wind turbines in New York State. He described the process where investors like Concord would invest in wind energy and receive a guaranteed revenue stream to be used as a hedge against other volatile energy prices. He also discussed Renewable Energy/Electricity Certificates (RECs) as "bragging rights" that don't impact finances.

Review of Minutes from December 17, 2007

Ms. Hughes moved to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Hathaway seconded. All **VOTED** in favor.

Update on Sawyer Trust

Mr. Crounse and Mr. Crowley gave an update on the Sawyer Trust Fund and handed out draft application forms for submitting and reviewing Town applications to receive funding from the Sawyer Trust. Ms. Hathaway suggested having prioritized criteria to make decisions and volunteered to draft such criteria. Mr. Crounse commended that the Town Manager wanted to some an educational and publicity component. Ms. Hughes suggested the criteria regarding effect on climate change. Mr. Crounse added that the committee should focus on more tangible measurements such as payback. Ms. Hathaway followed that good paybacks should probably have significant reduction on climate change pollutants.

Mr. Crowley agreed to email the draft application forms to everyone; to collect comments by Tuesday, February 26; and to set up an administrative meeting to edit the application forms.

Update on Warrant Article 41

Mr. Crowley gave a summary explained the current zoning requirements and current lack of control for wind turbines; summarized the potential impact of requiring special permits for wind turbines and asked the committee to evaluate their reaction to Article 41. He suggested that the committee go to the Planning Board public hearing on March 5 and give a presentation on the importance of on-site generation and support the article. He also asked if the committee wanted to offer an amendment, to which the committee decided that the special permit criteria are probably sufficient.

Mr. Crowley made a motion for the CSE to give a presentation to the Planning Board's public hearing scheduled on March 25, 2008 on the importance of on-site energy generation by renewable energy projects and on the CSE endorsement of the regulatory language. Ms. Hathaway seconded. **ALL VOTED** in favor.

Other Issues

Mr. Crowley disclosed that he is a now partner in an energy consulting company; such information has also been disclosed to the Town Manager, and the State ethics commission. He will let the CSE know if he needs to take any action or make any decision as issues arise to meet his obligations under the State Ethics Conflict of Interest law.

Tasks Assigned

Brian Crounse—volunteered to hold an administrative meeting and to possibly give a presentation to the Planning Board on March 5, if no one else is able (willing) to do so.

Pamela Hathaway —volunteered to create prioritized criteria for the reviewing process for the Sawyer Trust, to also attend the administrative meeting and to lead the next meeting on March 4.

Tyke Crowley —volunteered to email the committee members the draft Sawyer Trust application forms; attend the administrative meeting; and get information on attending the Planning Board's public hearing on March 5, 2008.

Mr. Crounse suggested that everyone else will evaluate the forms for the Sawyer Trust.

**Potential Action Items for the next meeting on
March 4, 2008 at 141 Keyes Road at 7:00p.m. .**

1. Presentation on recommending projects for funding under the Sawyer Trust.
2. Update on energy audits.
3. Discuss committee's scope and possible additional goal: establishment of an energy use/carbon baseline.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyke Crowley,
Vice Chair/Clerk